

Student Name:

Date:

Emma Lazarus' poem, "The New Colossus"

To prepare for this discussion, read and annotate the poem, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus

The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,

With conquering limbs astride from land to land;

Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand

A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame

Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name

Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand

Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she

With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Student Name:

Date:

1. Where do you think this poem is found? It was published in 1883.
2. What is the poem about?
3. What is the request of the statue?
4. How does the author believe that a society with poor and homeless people will add value to America?
5. What effects does it have on our society to welcome and provide governmental assistance for people with problems?
6. Should the United States government help people who are unable or unwilling to help themselves?

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Now, in your GROUPS, you are going to create THE TRUE COLOSSUS

Your creative project will tell the REAL STORY of what it is like for the immigrant in your IMMIGRATION BOOK in a song, poem, or rap. It should be 5 stanzas and use 5 quotes. It should not show a pretty view of immigration, but it should instead show the reality of what it is like to be an immigrant in America based on the experiences of your main character and his or her family. You may work on it in your groups during class time, and you will perform it as a group ON MONDAY. Here is an EXAMPLE:

It took 8 trips for Enrique to finally survive,
He made it to the Texas border, El Rio Grande, barely alive
He left Tegucigalpa when his rage grew in frustration
He set off to seek his mother and wanted to find “his salvation.”
After three months riding on top of trains
Getting pelted by fists, and frequent rains
Sleeping nights in graveyards, away from sight
A beating with a bat in Oaxaca gave him a fright
Barely alive, he landed in Las Anonas one day
When Mayor Carroasco decided to let him stay

Olga Martinez from “the Shelter of Jesus the Good Shepherd” and other priests
Who taught volunteers “to give to others without expecting anything in return”
They understood that Enrique had little chance of taming Chiapas “the beast.”
He survived the deserts, the mountains, and the train of steel
Because they gave him medical care, food cards, a place to heal.
While policemen stole his money, and “la migra” sent him on the bus of tears
A few good Samaritans comforted him, and helped ease his fears.
Giving for them “is a good way to protest Mexico’s policies against [] immigration”
Sending Central Americans on their way with tortillas and beans even when they cope with starvation
Because of them, he finally made it, after three months of travel
To America, where his life continued to unravel.

Reunited with his mother, who had left him twelve years prior
Her kind boyfriend was willing to see Enrique as a painting hire.
But financial opportunities didn’t kill his demons inside.
From inhaling glue, and smoking pot he could not hide.
America was no quick fix for his frustrations
Even after reuniting with Lourdes, Enrique was still trying to find “his salvation”
But he soon realized the grand irony of immigration.

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In Florida plagued by violent gangs who treated immigrants as prey.
They would beat and mug immigrants after Friday's payday.
And worse than that, he soon found himself rotting in jail
When he failed to pay a parking ticket, with no chance of bail.
The "Secure Communities" law made even misdemeanors a chance for deportation
Sending immigrants to jail for violating the borders of this great nation.

Give us your tired, your poor, but don't let them come here as illegals
Because without proper paperwork, there is no chance for treatment as equals
Enrique was trapped in a tiny cell.
His journey to America did not turn out so well.
Sonia Nazario helped him with some lawyers she did hire.
To help Enrique, who had slid from the frying pan into the fire.